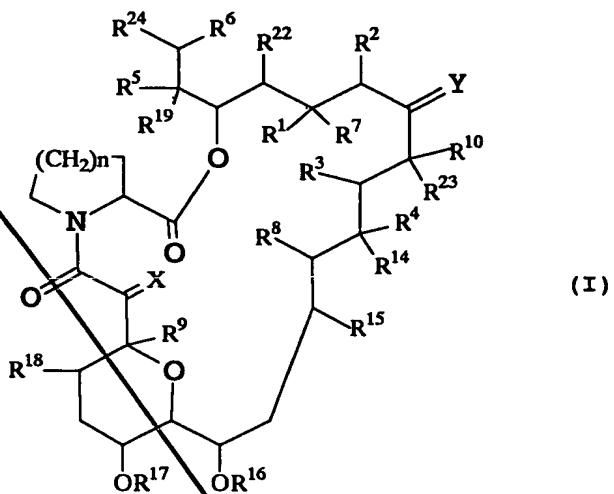


CLAIMS

- ~~1. An agent for treating a dry eye, comprising a macrolide compound as an active ingredient.~~

~~5 2. The agent of claim 1, wherein the macrolide compound is a tricyclo compound (I) of the following formula~~

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wherein

adjacent pairs of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, and R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> each independently

10 a) consist of two adjacent hydrogen atoms, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is optionally alkyl, or

b) form another bond between carbon atoms binding with the members of each pair;

$R^7$  is hydrogen atom, hydroxy, alkyloxy or protected hydroxy, or may form oxo with  $R^1$ ;

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  each independently show hydrogen atom or hydroxy ;  
 $R^{10}$  is hydrogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, alkenyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, or alkyl substituted by oxo :

20 X is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula  $\text{-CH}_2\text{O-}$ ;

**Y** is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula N-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup> or N-OR<sup>13</sup>;

$R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  each independently show hydrogen atom, alkyl, aryl or tosyl;

$R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{17}$ ,  $R^{18}$ ,  $R^{19}$ ,  $R^{22}$  and  $R^{23}$  each independently show hydrogen

*Sub B2 cont.*

R<sup>24</sup> is atom or alkyl ;  
an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains one or more hetero atom(s) ; and  
n is 1 or 2,  
wherein  
Y, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>23</sup> optionally form, together with the carbon atom they bind with, a saturated or unsaturated 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing nitrogen atom, sulfur atom and/or oxygen atom, the heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more group(s) selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy, alkyloxy, benzyl, a group of the formula -CH<sub>2</sub>Se(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), and alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy,  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

*Sub B2 PB*

3. The agent of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the macrolide compound is FK506.

4. The agent of any of claim 1 to claim 3, which is in the form of a preparation for local administration to the eye.

5. The agent of any of claim 1 to claim 4, which aims at improving tear film breakup time.

6. A method for treating a dry eye, comprising administering an effective amount of a macrolide compound to a subject in need of the treatment of dry eye.

7. Use of a macrolide compound for the production of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of dry eye.

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*Add B3 /*